

Alcohol Specifications

United States of America

Food Chemical Codex (F.C.C.) 4th Edition Published 1996
(and first Supplement, published 1997)

Ethyl Alcohol

(**Note:** This is a brief extract from the standard. Reference should be made to the original, and to any Supplements (published by National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.) for full, current test procedures.)

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| 1. | Characteristics: | A clear, colorless, mobile liquid, having a slight characteristic odor and a burning taste. It is miscible with water, with ether and with chloroform. It boils at about 78°C and is flammable. Its refractive index at 20°C is about 1.364. |
| 2. | Specifications: | |
| (a) | Ethanol content: | Not less than 94.9% by volume (92.3% by weight) |
| (b) | Acidity, as acetic acid: | Not more than 0.003% (30 ppm*) |
| (c) | Alkalinity, as NH₃: | Not more than 3 mg/kg (3 ppm*) |
| (d) | Fusel oil content: | Passes odor test on evaporation residue |
| (e) | Heavy metals, as lead: | Not more than 1 mg/kg (1 ppm*) |
| (f) | Ketones and iso-propanol: | Passes mercuric sulfate test |
| (g) | Methanol: | Passes test with chromotropic acid |
| (h) | Non-volatile residue: | Not more than 0.003% (30 ppm*) |
| (i) | Solubility in water: | Passes dilution test |
| (j) | Substances darkened by sulfuric acid: | Passes test |
| (k) | Substances reducing permanganate: | Passes test (more than 5 minutes at 15°C) |

* The "ppm" (parts per million) figures are not included in the original standard, but are added to facilitate comparisons with other standard specifications.

[Go back](#)